

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: WOLFEBORO 29615
NH ROUTE 28 – PICKERING CORNER TO ALTON TOWN LINE

DATE OF CONFERENCE: December 5, 2019, 2:00 pm

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall
84 South Main St, Wolfeboro

SUBJECT: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1, Kick-off Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Name	Representation	Present	Absent
Paul O'Brien	Town of Wolfeboro, Board of Selectmen	X	
Linda Murray	Town of Wolfeboro, Board of Selectmen	X	
James Pineo	Town of Wolfeboro, Town Manager		X
Peter Gilligan	Brewster Academy	X	
Susan Harrington	Brewster Academy	X	
Maryann Belanger	Governor Wentworth School District	X	
David Lynch	Kingswood Golf Course	X	
Susan Slack	Lakes Region Planning Commission	X	
Jeremy Roberge, CEO	Huggins Hospital		X
Alan Hanscom	NHDOT District 3		X
William Rollins (Alternate)	NHDOT District 3	X	
Roger Murray	Citizen-At-Large	X	
Bob Tougher	Citizen-At-Large	X	
Cindy Melanson	Citizen-At-Large	X	
Bob Leavy	Citizen-At-Large		X
Mary DeVries	Chamber of Commerce, Wolfeboro EDC		X
Kathy Barnard	Town of Wolfeboro, Planning Board Rep.	X	

PROJECT LEAD TEAM (PLT)

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Don Lyford	NHDOT Project Manager	X	
Tobey Reynolds	NHDOT Roadway Section Chief	X	
Stephanie Micucci	NHDOT Roadway Section Group Leader	X	
Jason Ayotte	NHDOT Roadway Section Senior Engineer	X	
Matt Sullivan	Town of Wolfeboro, Director of Planning	X	
Dave Ford	Town of Wolfeboro, Director of Public Works	X	

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

This meeting was scheduled to introduce the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and Project Lead Team (PLT) members, present the draft Public Involvement Plan, provide an overview of the NHDOT design process and project history, explain funding limitations and key considerations in the project scope, and outline the schedule and next steps for the PAC.

- I. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) – Jason Ayotte and Dave Ford provided an overview of the PIP, which was distributed to the PAC members at the meeting. This included a brief description of PAC roles and responsibilities and how the members will help shape NHDOT decisions on the project throughout the design process. Currently the project is scheduled to advertise for contractors to bid in 2024. Matt Sullivan requested that PAC members take time to review the PIP subsequent to the meeting and provide comments.
- II. Project History – J. Ayotte and D. Ford explained the project history. The Town of Wolfeboro Master Plan began in 2007 and a Corridor Study was developed between 2010-2017, including several public forums which led to the development of the 2018 Town of Wolfeboro Preliminary Planning Report:
 - a. J. Ayotte outlined the limits and scope of work for Segments 1-4 as discussed in the 2018 Planning Report Recommendations, which were distributed to the PAC members at the meeting:
 - i. The project proposes to address the poor pavement condition and remove the existing concrete slab, upgrade the existing drainage system and provide stormwater treatment, provide safer accommodations for pedestrians and bicycles, improve safety at intersections within the project limits, and maintain the historic character of the Town of Wolfeboro.
 - ii. Recommendations from the report included:
 1. 2 Lane Roadway with Sidewalks from Pickering Corner to Pleasant Valley Road
 2. Unsignalized Intersection at Pickering Corner
 3. NH 28 southbound left turn lane at McManus Road & “T” Intersection for Pleasant Valley Road
 4. Safety & lighting improvements to Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crosswalks
 5. Safety Improvements at Golf Course Crossing
 6. Speed Reduction

- III. NHDOT Funding Constraints – J. Ayotte explained that the funding programmed for this project through the NHDOT is approximately \$7.3 million. However, the preliminary estimate to complete all four segments listed in the 2018 Planning Report is estimated at approximately \$20 million and exceeds the funding programmed. The available funding reduces the project length and based on the 2018 Planning Report the priorities will be Segment 3 & 4, Pleasant Valley to Pickering Corner. D. Ford added, there is still a shortage of funding and the Town will be looking to find other funding opportunities to construct Segments 3 & 4.
- IV. Preliminary Feedback from the PAC –
- a. Posted Speed Limit:
 - i. Several PAC members spoke in favor of reducing the posted speed limit within the project limits. There was a concern with the inconsistency in posted speed limits from the Alton Town Line to the Pickering Corner Intersection, where the posted speed fluctuates between 30 mph and 40 mph. The variation in posted speeds makes the corridor “confusing” and high travel speeds pose a safety issue for pedestrians trying to cross the road.
 - ii. It was mentioned that the school zone for Kingswood High School tends to make drivers feel as though they can speed up again after leaving the school zone. A consistent 30 mph speed limit throughout the length of the project, at a minimum, would be preferred by the Town.
 - iii. It was explained the Town has requested a speed zone reduction for the corridor, and as a result the NHDOT Bureau of Traffic conducted a speed study and is currently analyzing the results. A key consideration of the NH Route 28 project will be to investigate traffic calming measures in order to reduce vehicle speeds. Once the NH Route 28 project is completed, a post-construction speed study can be completed to determine if speed zones should be adjusted.
 - b. Pedestrian Crosswalks:
 - i. The Town is concerned with the crosswalk locations, visibility, as well as lighting. Brewster Academy has expressed interest in improving the existing, as well as adding an additional crosswalk (identified previously for maintenance), and any adjustments or additions made by the Town would want to be integrated into the ten-year plan project.
 - ii. Another primary concern was the Golf Course Crossing, which is used for both pedestrians, golf carts, and snowmobiles. The higher traffic speeds in the vicinity of this crossing pose a safety hazard for golf course patrons.

An underpass crossing was stated as a consideration, similar to the Holderness Preparatory School or Coe-Brown High School underpasses.

- iii. There was hesitation among the group to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at uncontrolled crossings as a response to improving their safety. It was asked approximately how much RRFB's cost to install on a project. The response was approx. \$25,000-30,000, but could vary depending if the RRFBs were installed as a standalone or within a larger project.
- iv. It was noted that the existing lighting at crosswalks is either non-existent or not bright enough, and adding street lighting at crosswalks would be beneficial.

c. Pickering Corner Intersection:

- i. It was asked what a roundabout might cost in comparison to an unsignalized intersection. The NHDOT did not estimate the roundabout for initial scoping, however, the NHDOT would complete estimates of any new proposals during the Alternatives Analysis Phase.

d. Pleasant Valley Road Intersection:

- i. It was noted that the primary issue with this intersection is the southbound turning movement into Pleasant Valley Road, although nobody recalled any severe crashes at Pleasant Valley Road in the recent past. NHDOT plans to review the crash history at this location and consider low-cost safety improvements to this intersection.

e. Crash History:

- i. P. O'Brien suggested the Town Police Department could provide additional crash data that could help identify "hot spots" within the project limits. NHDOT is retrieving updated crash data through the Department of Safety, and can review the data with the Town Police Department. P. O'Brien also noted the Police Department could provide locations and information regarding speeding violations.

ACTION ITEMS

1. NHDOT will post presentation materials and minutes from this meeting on the NHDOT project website.
2. Matt Sullivan will schedule the next PAC Meeting for January 16, 2020 at 2:00pm.
3. PAC members will review the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and provide comments for the January 16th PAC meeting.

4. NHDOT will schedule a meeting with the Town of Wolfeboro to follow-up on conversations raised at this meeting about crash history and to go over the crash data that will be provided by both NHDOT and the Town Police Department.

Submitted by:

NHDOT

SLM/slm

NOTED BY: D. Lyford, T. Reynolds, J. Ayotte

cc: Attendees, File

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